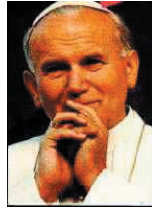

Pope John Paul II Born Karol Wojtyla Wadowice, Poland 1920-2005



A Great Spiritual and Moral Leader

- He was a holy man and theologian whose prolific writings examined all areas of Church teaching and the great moral issues of our age
- A tireless defender of the sanctity of human life, he coined the famous phrases, “Culture of Life” and “Culture of Death”
- At the United Nations in 1995, he defended the universality of human rights and described himself as a “witness to hope”

A Champion of Peace and Freedom

- His message on the evils of totalitarianism helped liberate his native Poland and bring about the peaceful collapse of Soviet communism
- He spread peace and hope to people all over the world
- He reached out to people of all faiths, most notably Jews and Muslims

The People’s Pope

- He was a great communicator with enormous charisma
- He was the most traveled pope ever, arguably seen live by more people than any person in history
- He was especially beloved by young people



Milestones in the Papacy of John Paul II



Third longest pontificate

- October 16, 1978 Elected 264th pope, first non-Italian pope in 455 years, first Slavic pope ever
 - 1979 Makes pilgrimage to Poland
 - 1981 Survives assassination attempt by Mehmet Ali Agca
 - 1983 Visits Mehmet Ali Agca in prison and forgives him
 - 1986 Becomes first modern pope to visit synagogue, in Rome
 - 1994 Establishes full diplomatic ties with Israel
 - 1998 Travels to Cuba
 - 2000 Makes pilgrimage to Holy Land, including apology to Jewish people
 - 2001 Becomes first pope to visit mosque, in Syria
 - 2003 Celebrates 25th year as pontiff
 - April 2, 2005 Dies in his Vatican apartment at age 84
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